

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05626 111502Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W  
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P R 111430Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9020  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 5626

EXDIS/ USSALTTWO

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PARM  
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS, POST-PLENARY CONVERSATIONS,  
JULY 8, 1977 (SALT TWO-1274)

1. (JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN, A-1636)

HEAVY BOMBER DEFINITION

SHCHUKIN AGREED TO PICK UP PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS ON FUTURE  
HEAVY BOMBERS, SAYING THAT AS HE RECALLED, THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSS-  
ING THE MEANING OF THE WORDS "CHARACTERISTICS," AS USED BY THE  
SOVIET SIDE, AND "CAPABILITY," AS USED BY THE US SIDE. HE FELT  
THAT IT WAS CLEAR NEITHER WORD COULD BE TRANSLATED INTO THE OTHER  
LANGUAGE BY ITS DIRECT EQUIVALENT, AT LEAST AS THEY WERE USED IN  
DESCRIBING BOMBERS.

BASED ON PREVIOUS DISCUSSION, JOHNSON SAID THAT HE HAD  
GATHERED THAT THE RUSSIAN WORD FOR "CHARACTERISTICS" WAS BROADER  
THAN THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT, AND ENCOMPASSED CONCEPTS THAT WERE  
INCLUDED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN BOTH "CHARACTERISTICS" AND  
"CAPABILITY." SHCHUKIN ADDED THAT IN RUSSIAN THE TERM "CAPABILITY"

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WAS USED TO EXPRESS AN OBJECT'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTION,  
WHEREAS "CHARACTERISTICS" DESCRIBED ITS PROPERTIES, I.E., RANGE,  
SPEED, FLIGHT PROFILE, ETC. CONTINUING, HE ADDED THAT WHILE HE  
DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO INTERFERE WITH THE PREROGATIVES OF THE  
DRAFTING GROUP, PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION  
WOULD BE BY THE ADDITION OF APPROPRIATE FOOTNOTES TO THE TEST,  
IN ANY EVENT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE DELEGA-

TIONS TO REQUIRE TOO MUCH DETAIL IN THE DEFINITION OF A HEAVY  
BOMBER SINCE IT MIGHT SIMPLY COMPLICATE OUR PROBLEM. HE POINTED  
OUT THAT WE ALREADY HAD A LIST OF AIRCRAFT THAT IDENTIFIED WHICH  
EACH SIDE CONSIDERED TO BE HEAVY BOMBERS.EARLE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009